**Chapter 1: The Political Landscape**

***Reading Comprehension Quiz***

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1) The Preamble to the Constitution begins

A) "We the People . . ."

B) "Four score and seven years ago . . ."

C) "When in the course of human events . . ."

D) "In order to form a more perfect Union . . .”

E) "These are the times that try men's souls . . .”

Answer: A

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs. 4-7

Skill: Understanding

2) Which of the following did NOT lead to American settlement in the seventeenth century?

A) Questioning the divine right of kings

B) The split from the Church of England

C) Belief in self-government

D) Belief in intelligent design

E) Hobbes and Locke’s social contract theories

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs. 4-7

Skill: Understanding

3) A social contract theory of government was proposed by

A) Plato and Aristotle.

B) Aquinas and Luther.

C) Newton and the separatists.

D) Locke and Hobbes.

E) Plato and Luther.

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Learning Level: Understanding

4) Locke's *Second Treatise on Civil Government* sets out a theory of

A) the divine rights of kings.

B) aristocracy.

C) democracy.

D) republicanism.

E) natural rights.

Answer: E

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

5) Indirect democracy is based on

A) consensus.

B) unanimity.

C) the system of government used in ancient Greece.

D) representation.

E) "mob rule."

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

6) Republics are

A) representative democracies.

B) direct democracies.

C) a hallmark of unitary governments.

D) frequently found in totalitarian regimes.

E) another name for states.

Answer: A

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

7) In an oligarchy, rule is by

A) the many.

B) the few.

C) one person.

D) all people.

E) people who own property.

Answer: B

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

8) A doctrine that society should be governed by certain ethical principles that are part of nature and can be understood by reason is called

A) ethical law.

B) contract law.

C) natural law.

D) Newton's law.

E) constitutional law.

Answer: C

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Understanding

9) Who was the major author of the Declaration of Independence?

A) George Washington

B) James Madison

C) Thomas Jefferson

D) Benjamin Franklin

E) Alexander Hamilton

Answer: C

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Understanding

10) According to the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution, which of the following is NOT an example of a function of American government?

A) Promoting the general welfare

B) Securing the blessings of liberty

C) Ensuring the pursuit of happiness

D) Establishing justice

E) Insuring domestic tranquility

Answer: C

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs. 12-13

Skill: Understanding

11) The fastest growing segment of the U.S. population is

A) Asians.

B) African Americans.

C) Muslims.

D) Caucasians.

E) Hispanics.

Answer: E

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Understanding

12) The coherent set or system of values and beliefs that shape the thinking of individuals and how they view the world, as well as their beliefs about the purpose and scope of government, is known as

A) political theory.

B) political ideology.

C) sociology.

D) political culture.

E) political psychology.

Answer: B

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

13) All of the following are among the functions that political scientists attribute to ideologies EXCEPT

A) explanation

B) evaluation

C) orientation

D) discrimination

E) political programs

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

14) Conservatives generally believe that

A) government should guarantee individual rights.

B) activist governments are often necessary.

C) government should provide only for defense and little else.

D) there should be less government intervention in economic affairs.

E) government should be abolished.

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

15) Politics, as defined in the text, is

A) way too corrupt to attract any good men or women to run for office.

B) impossible without government.

C) the study of "who gets what, when, and how."

D) the province of only the wealthy.

E) irrelevant to the modern world.

Answer: C

Reference: LO 1.7, pgs. 19-21

Skill: Understanding

**True/False Questions**

1) Commerce was the most common initial reason for settlement in North America.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs. 4-7

Skill: Understanding

2) John Locke wrote *Leviathan*, in which he advocated for a strong central government.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

3) Jean-Jacques Rousseau believed a social contract would provide absolute equality.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

4) Natural law is a doctrine that argues that society should be governed by certain ethical principles.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Understanding

5) The key functions of American government are found in both the Declaration of Independence and the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs. 12-13

Skill: Understanding

6) African Americans are growing at the quickest rate of all ethnic or racial groups.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Understanding

7) Recent opinion surveys demonstrate that a majority of Americans favor large families with four or more children.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Understanding

8) According Isaiah Berlin, science and technology contributed significantly to the political environment of the twentieth century.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

9) Most social conservatives have religious affiliations.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

10) According to a 2010 poll, over half of Americans believed that country is headed in the wrong direction.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.7, pgs. 19-21

Skill: Understanding

*Chapter Exam*

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1) The Jamestown settlement was funded by

A) The Royal Company.

B) The Virginia Charter Company.

C) The London Company.

D) The Blackwall Company.

E) The Smith Company.

Answer: C

Reference: Chapter Opener, pgs. 2-4

Skill: Understanding

2) The winter of 1609-1610 was deemed

A) “The Starving Time.”

B) “The Rogue Time.”

C) “The Wasting Time.”

D) “The Vanishing Time.”

E) “The Desolate Time.”

Correct Answer: A

Reference: Chapter Opener, pgs. 2-4

Skill: Understanding

3) Which of the following is the best explanation of why most American Indian reservations are in the West today?

A) Tribes had difficulty crossing the Rocky Mountains when they established their settlements.

B) European settlers and the U.S. government pushed Indian tribes westward.

C) Only the Indian tribes in the West survived after those in the East died of exposure to European disease.

D) Indian tribes moved westward in hopes to expand economic power.

E) Most American Indian reservations are not in the West.

Answer: B

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs. 4-7

Skill: Analysis

4) Enlightenment thinkers argued that the world could be improved through

A) religious toleration and human reason.

B) human reason, science, and religious toleration.

C) faith, religion, and divine reason.

D) human reason, science, and religious homogeny.

E) science and religious toleration.

Answer: B

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs. 4-7

Skill: Understanding

5) Roger Williams questioned

A) the right of colonists to settle on Indian lands.

B) God’s merciful providence.

C) the Puritans’ merciful ways.

D) the Puritans’ right to split from the Anglican Church.

E) the Old Testament.

Answer: A

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs. 4-7

Skill: Understanding

6) Which of these settlements was established for religious reasons?

A) Jamestown

B) Maryland

C) New Amsterdam

D) New York

E) Georgia

Answer: B

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs. 4-7

Skill: Understanding

7) The House of Burgesses was

A) created in 1615.

B) the Governor’s board of advisors.

C) the first representative assembly in North America.

D) the lawmaking body for the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

E) created by the Governor of Virginia.

Answer: C

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs. 4-7

Skill: Understanding

8) According to \_\_\_\_, life without government would be “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.”

A) John Locke

B) St. Thomas Aquinas

C) Jean-Jacques Rousseau

D) Thomas Hobbes

E) Aristotle

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

9) Hobbes would most likely argue for which of the following forms of government?

A) Totalitarianism

B) Republicanism

C) Aristocracy

D) Democracy

E) Anarchy

Answer: A

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Application

10) Jean Jacques Rousseau argued that

A) reason, not feeling, is what draws people to life in a community.

B) basic rights come from a state of nature.

C) society based on a true social contract would provide absolute equality and freedom.

D) a monarchy is necessary to restrain humanity’s bestial tendencies.

E) humanity’s natural state was one of violence and war.

Answer: C

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

11) Congress’s authority to check the president’s judicial appointment power is a concept that can be attributed largely to the ideas of

A) Thomas Hobbes.

B) Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

C) John Locke.

D) Charles-Louis, the Second Baron of Montesquieu.

E) St. Thomas Aquinas.

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Application

12) A direct democracy is a system

A) in which an elite makes decisions for the society.

B) in which representatives meet to discuss policy and make decisions.

C) in which the masses have certain rights, but decisions are made by a council.

D) in which all members of the polity meet to discuss policy and make decisions.

E) that was used by a majority of the colonies.

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

13) Why was indirect democracy a necessary alternative to direct democracy?

A) The people were deemed too ignorant to be involved directly with government.

B) It became increasingly difficult to bring all the colonists together in the decision-making process.

C) The religious tendencies of the colonists caused them to rebel against the Greek model of democracy.

D) The colonies sought to follow the teachings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

E) The wealthier and more educated citizens changed the system so they could wield more power.

Answer: B

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Analysis

14) Iraq under the leadership of Saddam Hussein was an example of

A) a totalitarian system of government.

B) a democratic system of government.

C) an oligarchic system of government.

D) a monarchic system of government.

E) an aristocratic system of government.

Answer: A

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Application

15) Aristotle attempted to devise a way to classify governments. Critical to his analyses was knowledge of

A) if the government was a monarchy.

B) how many people ruled in an oligarchy.

C) how democracies could be ruled by the few.

D) whom citizens were ruled by and in whose interest.

E) if governments were ruled by wise leaders.

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

16) According to Aristotle's classifications of government, rule by a few whose interests are served by the public is

A) an aristocracy.

B) a dictatorship.

C) a democracy.

D) a monarchy.

E) an oligarchy.

Answer: E

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

17) Which of the following does NOT describe democracy?

A) It exists in a direct form in the federal government of United States.

B) It can be both direct and indirect.

C) It is one of Aristotle’s classifications of government.

D) It is similar to a polity in terms of who governs.

E) It is the most common form of government in the world.

Answer: A

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Analysis

18) American political culture embodies many key concepts including

I. absolute personal liberty.

II. political equality.

III. majority rule.

IV. individualism.

A) I only

B) I and II

C) III and IV

D) I, II, and III

E) II, III, and IV

Answer: E

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Understanding

19) The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ expanded Americans' conceptions of personal liberty to include some forms of freedom from discrimination.

A) Declaration of Independence

B) Fourteenth Amendment

C) Preamble to the Constitution

D) idea of majority rule

E) idea of equality

Answer: B

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Application

20) The idea that governments draw legitimacy and power from the governed is referred to as

A) majority rule.

B) direct democracy.

C) capitalism.

D) popular consent.

E) popular control.

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Understanding

21) The Fourteenth Amendment can be considered a counter to which of the following tenets of American political culture?

A) Political equality

B) Individualism

C) Religious freedom

D) Majority rule  
E) Personal equality

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Analysis

22) The American emphasis on the importance of the individual is rooted in the principle of

A) popular consent.

B) political equality.

C) majority rule.

D) indirect democracy.

E) political culture.

Answer: B

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Understanding

23) The idea of popular sovereignty can first be found in the

A) Mayflower Compact.

B) Declaration of Independence.

C) U.S. Constitution.

D) Gettysburg Address.

E) Voting Rights Act.

Answer: B

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Understanding

24) The Framers agreed that the new nation had to be founded on notions of

A) religious tolerance.

B) religious faith.

C) racial tolerance.

D) racial freedom.

E) religious freedom.

Answer: E

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Understanding

25) The creation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is an example of the national government attempting to

I. establish justice.

II. secure the blessings of liberty.

III. promote the general welfare.

IV. insure domestic tranquility.

A) I only

B) II and III

C) I, II, and III

D) I, III, and IV

E) I, II, III, and IV

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs. 12-13

Skill: Application

26) The Constitution initially mandated that each member of the House of Representatives should represent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ citizens.

A) 200,000

B) 130,000

C) 60,000

D) 30,000

E) 100,000

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Understanding

27) Today, a single member of the House of Representatives may represent as many as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ citizens.

A) 420,000

B) 620,000

C) 800,000

D) almost 1 million

E) almost 3 million

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Understanding

28) In general, the U.S. population is

I. mostly under the age of thirty.

II. getting older.

III. becoming less diverse.

IV. less affected by immigration than in earlier years.

A) I only

B) II only

C) III only

D) II and IV

E) III and II

Answer: B

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Understanding

29) According to the text, a powerful national government is likely to meet opposition in which of the following regions of the United States?

I. South

II. Northeast

III. Midwest

IV. West

A) I and II

B) II and III

C) I and IV

D) I, II, and II

E) I, II, and IV

Answer: C

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Analysis

30) The percentage of households in the United States consisting of a single person is nearly \_\_\_\_ percent.

A) 10

B) 20

C) 30

D) 40

E) 50

Answer: C

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Understanding

31) According to the definition in the text, political ideologies are sets of beliefs that

I. shape the thinking of individuals and how they view the world.

II. are affected only by historical forces.

III. affect how people deal with relations between men and women.

IV. have little to do with feelings of nationalism.

A) I only

B) II and III

C) II and IV

D) I and III

E) I, II, and IV

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

32) According to Isaiah Berlin, a noted historian and philosopher, two factors, above all, have shaped human history in the twentieth century. They are

A) science and technology, and trade.

B) science and technology, and religion.

C) religion and ideology.

D) science and technology, and ideology.

E) trade and ideology.

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

33) The reason that some pro-choice conservative voters may choose pro-choice liberal candidates over other conservatives is most closely related to which of the following functions of ideology?

A) Explanation

B) Evaluation

C) Orientation

D) Political programs

E) Conservative ideals

Answer: C

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Application

34) Which of the following public policies would social conservatives be most likely to support?

A) Efforts to restrict abortion and ban same-sex marriage.

B) Decreasing defense spending

C) Prohibiting any references to God or religion on money or government buildings

D) Universal healthcare provided by the government

E) Regulating the banking and financial sectors

Answer: A

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Application

35) Social conservatives, who now form a large part of the base of the Republican Party, often are also members of

A) religious organizations.

B) programs seeking to expand welfare programs.

C) groups seeking to keep government out of Americans’ private lives.

D) groups seeking to enhance marriage by allowing domestic partnerships.

E) pro-choice groups.

Answer: A

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Analysis

36) Liberals

A) believe individuals should look to churches and other social services organizations instead of the government for assistance.

B) are comfortable with the social status quo.

C) generally favor government intervention to promote equality.

D) seek to end costly welfare programs.

E) are more likely to vote Republican than Democratic.

Answer: C

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

37) Liberals often favor

I. spending on social programs.

II. more lenient enforcement of laws such as the USA Patriot Act.

III. increased involvement of churches as the first line of defense for the poor.

IV. affirmative action programs to help make up for economic injustices.

A) II only

B) I, II, and IV

C) I, III, and IV

D) II, III and IV

E) I, II, III, and IV

Answer: B

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Analysis

38) Moderates

A) are most aligned with the views of Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter.

B) comprise over half of the U.S. population.

C) largely support an overhaul of the welfare system.

D) believe that a temperate view is the best approach to politics.  
E) created the Tea Party movement.

Answer: D

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

39) Moderates fall to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the political spectrum.

A) far left

B) left

C) center

D) right

E) far right

Answer: C

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

40) According to the text, which of the following is an ideology that political scientists generally do not measure?

A) Moderate

B) Liberal

C) Fiscal conservative

D) Social conservative

E) Libertarian

Answer: E

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

41) Getting married, buying a house with a white picket fence, and having the ability to pay for children’s college is one way a person may view what is/are termed the

A) American norms.

B) American dream.

C) American ideals.

D) American standard of living.

E) American illusion.

Answer: B

Reference: LO 1.7, pgs. 19-21

Skill: Understanding

42) Nearly \_\_\_\_\_ of people in a 2009 survey did NOT believe they had achieved the American dream.

A) half

B) two-thirds

C) 70 percent

D) 20 percent

E) one-quarter

Answer: A

Reference: LO 1.7, pgs. 19-21

Skill: Understanding

43) Over time, Americans’ expectations of government have generally

A) increased.

B) remained the same.

C) decreased.

D) been eliminated.

E) not been measured.

Answer: A

Reference: LO 1.7, pgs. 19-21

Skill: Understanding

44) Americans’ faith in institutions in the United States has

A) remained stagnant over time.

B) generally increased.

C) generally decreased.

D) decreased for some and increased for others.

E) fluctuated, depending on the political climate.

Answer: C

Reference: LO 1.7, pgs. 19-21

Skill: Analysis

45) Americans have the highest levels of trust in

A) medicine.

B) Congress.

C) the executive branch.

D) business and industry.

E) the press.

Answer: A

Reference: LO 1.7, pgs. 19-21

Skill: Understanding

**True/False Questions**

1) In December 1606, three ships set sail from Blackwall, England, to America in search of religious freedom.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: Chapter Opener, pgs. 2-4

Skill: Understanding

2) The conditions in the Jamestown settlement allowed the colonists to thrive with little difficulty.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: Chapter Opener, pgs. 2-4

Skill: Understanding

3) Even though the introduction of tobacco as a cash crop in 1612 brought economic prosperity, the conditions in Jamestown remained dismal.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: Chapter Opener, pgs. 2-4

Skill: Understanding

4) Indigenous peoples had been living in North America for more than 30,000 years before the arrival of the first European colonists.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs. 4-7

Skill: Understanding

5) Delaware was established as a Catholic colony.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs. 4-7

Skill: Understanding

6) Anne Hutchinson would have believed that a woman should be fully subservient to her husband.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs. 4-7

Skill: Application

7) The Mayflower Compact was a social contract.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

8) According to Thomas Hobbes, the state of nature is peaceful coexistence.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

9) The Declaration of Independence was heavily influenced by John Locke.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

10) A theocratic government with absolute power is a totalitarian regime.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Application

11) The term “popular sovereignty” did not come into wide use until pre–Civil War debates over slavery.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Understanding

12) Majority rule is a core American political value.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Understanding

13) Popular sovereignty has its basis in natural law.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Understanding

14) The inalienable rights described by Thomas Jefferson are most directly based on the ideas of Thomas Hobbes.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10; LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Understanding

15) Although one of the functions of American government is to establish justice, the U.S. Constitution mentions nothing about its administration.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs. 12-13

Skill: Understanding

16) Promoting the general welfare is a function of the national government.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs. 12-13

Skill: Understanding

17) Immigration to the United States peaked in the first decade of the 1900s when nearly 9 million people, a majority of them from Latin America, entered the country.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Application

18) The first of the Baby Boomers became eligible for Social Security in 2011.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Understanding

19) Majorities of Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu individuals have established roots in the United States.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Understanding

20) The notion of southern states opposing a national takeover of health care parallels the views of their representatives during the Constitutional Convention.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Application

21) Political ideologies do not play a major role in American politics because only a small number of Americans associate themselves with a particular ideology.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

22) Liberals often believe that the government should intervene in the economy.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

23) Conservatives tend to believe that government is best that governs least.

Answer: TRUE

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

24) Libertarians would likely advocate for the USA PATRIOT Act.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Application

25) Politics are unaffected by the evolving nature of the American citizenry.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.7, pgs. 19-21

Skill: Understanding

26) The federal government had enormous responsibilities toward its citizens in the first 150 years of our nation’s history.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.7, pgs. 19-21

Skill: Understanding

27) There is little contradiction in citizens’ expectations of government.

Answer: FALSE

Reference: LO 1.7, pgs. 19-21

Skill: Understanding

**Short Answer Questions**

1) What were some of the primary reasons that colonists settled in America?

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs. 4-7

Skill: Understanding

2) Explain the effect of the Enlightenment on the development of theories of democratic thought.

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs. 4-7

Skill: Application

3) What is social contract theory?

Reference: LO 1.1, pgs. 4-7

Skill: Understanding

4) Explain briefly how Locke, Hobbes, Rousseau, and Charles-Louis, the Second Baron of Montesquieu, each influenced American government.

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Understanding

5) Why did early American political theorists prefer the concept of a republic over a democracy?

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Analysis

6) Compare and contrast tyranny, oligarchy, and democracy.

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Analysis

7) Compare and contrast the ideas of direct and indirect democracy.

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Analysis

8) American democracy has several key concepts. Your textbook lists six. Discuss three of these. Which are most important, and how have they influenced the development of the American polity?

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Evaluation

9) Briefly discuss in what ways America's emphasis on individualism as a core concept differs from that of many other nations that place greater value on group rights.

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Analysis

10) Is America's brand of democracy easily exported? Why or why not?

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Application

11) Growing numbers of commentators have noted the increased role of religion in American politics. "Values" issues, such as same-sex marriage, abortion, and the use of stem cells, often seem to trump other important issues, such as the war in Afghanistan or corruption. Is the role of religion in politics a new thing? Does religion have an appropriate place in law making or interpretation by the Supreme Court?

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12; LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Evaluation

12) Explain the functions of American government found in the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution.

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs. 12-13

Skill: Understanding

13) Discuss three specific examples of how American government promotes the general welfare of U.S. citizens. Is the government effective in doing so?

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs. 12-13

Skill: Evaluation

14) About 40 percent of Americans under age 25 (excluding illegal aliens) are members of a minority group. How will this ultimately affect politics in the United States?

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17  
Skill: Application

15) What is political ideology? Give an example of how a particular political ideology might color one's thinking about stem cell research.

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding, Application

16) What is a libertarian?

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding

17) How have Americans’ expectations of their government changed over time, and why?

Reference: LO 1.7, pgs. 19-21

Skill: Understanding

**Essay Questions**

1) Compare and contrast the theories of John Locke and Thomas Hobbes. Be sure to discuss how each theorist has affected the American system of government.

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Analysis

2) Some scholars have commented that the Declaration of Independence is “pure Locke.” What evidence is there for this contention? Provide three examples. Do you agree or disagree with this assessment?

Reference: LO 1.2, pgs. 7-10

Skill: Evaluation

3) What are the characteristics of American democracy? In your opinion, should some of these characteristics take precedence over others? How might this occur?

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Evaluation

4) Immigration, especially across our southern borders, continues to divide the citizenry, the political parties, and the president. Some scholars believe that this new wave of immigration is particularly harmful to the continued maintenance of American values. Do you agree or disagree with these concerns? Make sure to use examples to support your answer.

Reference: LO 1.3, pgs. 10-12

Skill: Evaluation

5) As noted in the text, the Framers set out several key functions of government that later found their way into the Preamble of the Constitution. Discuss what at least three of these functions mean in terms of American democracy.

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs. 12-13

Skill: Analysis

6) Explain what the Framers meant by “securing the blessings of liberty” and discuss how far a government should go to ensure citizens’ liberty.

Reference: LO 1.4, pgs. 12-13

Skill: Understanding, Evaluation

7) How is the racial and ethnic make-up of the United States changing, and what are the consequences of these changes for public policy?

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Analysis

8) Why are there regional and sectional differences within American political culture? Explain how these differences arose.

Reference: LO 1.5, pgs. 13-17

Skill: Analysis

9) Political scientists note that ideologies perform four key functions. After discussing each function, decide and explain which most affects your own ideology.

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding, Evaluation

10) What is a political ideology? Describe the differences among liberal, conservative, and libertarian ideologies. What policy positions are members of these groups likely to support?

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Understanding, Analysis

11) Discuss why the labels of “conservative” and “liberal” may be misleading.

Reference: LO 1.6, pgs. 17-18

Skill: Evaluation